

Falerii Novi (Comune di Fabrica di Roma, Provincia di Viterbo, Regione Lazio)

Survey work resumed at Falerii Novi (Keay et al. 2000; Millett 2007; Hay et al. 2010) as part of the AHRC-funded “Beneath the Surface of Roman Republican Cities” project (2015-17). Previous work had used magnetometry to provide a survey of the whole of the intra-mural area and the extra-mural zone to the north as well as generating a topographic model of the town. The present project, started in spring 2015, aims to provide a full-coverage Ground Penetrating Radar survey of the entire intra-mural area (c. 28 ha), as well as an assessment of the unpublished pottery from the excavations of 1969-75.

The geophysical prospection is being carried out in collaboration with the University of Ghent and employs a custom-made GPR system, featuring an array of 500 MHz antennae mounted on a cart towed behind an all-terrain vehicle (a quadbike), with data gathered at 0.125m intervals and locations recorded at high precision using a tracking total station in combination with an RTK GPS (this system generally allows buried features to be seen down to a depth of about 1.00-1.50m below the surface).

In the fieldwork period in 2015, we were able to collect data from c. 9.97ha. The results of the survey are still being processed, but it is clear that they provide excellent evidence to complement the previous surveys. In particular, they provide new evidence for the layout of the north-western part of the site and the eastern end of the forum. It is envisaged that data will be collected over the whole of the rest of the town during 2016 and 2017.

References:

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